

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A control panel for a device, comprising:
a graphical user interface (GUI) displaying a plurality of control icons, wherein the plurality of control icons represent a plurality of corresponding control functions for controlling the device, the GUI displaying a plurality of user-selectable functionalities distributed over multiple display interfaces in a control hierarchy of a system; and
means for providing tactile detectability to said GUI to allow a user to detect at least one of the plurality of control icons by touch, wherein the tactile detectability is provided to the GUI when the user is transitioning between the multiple display interfaces of the control hierarchy.
2. (Original) The control panel as in claim 1, wherein said means for providing tactile detectability provides at least one surface vibration to said GUI.
3. (Original) The control panel as in claim 2, wherein said at least one surface vibration is in a range of about 10Hz to about 1 kHz.
4. (Original) The control panel as in claim 2, wherein at least two of the plurality of control icons have different surface vibrations.
5. (Original) The control panel as in claim 2, wherein said at least one surface vibration is present on at least one control icon of said plurality of control icons and not present on a surrounding area of display.
6. (Original) The control panel as in claim 2, wherein said at least one surface vibration is present on an area of display surrounding said plurality of control icons and not present on said plurality of control icons.

7. (Original) The control panel as in claim 5, wherein said at least one surface vibration is present on all of said control icons of the plurality of control icons and not present on a surrounding area of display.
8. (Original) The control panel as in claim 1, wherein said means for providing tactile detectability provides electrotactile stimulation to said GUI.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently Amended) The control panel as in claim 1 [[9]], wherein said system is a consumer electronics system.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
providing a control device including a display for displaying a graphical user interface (GUI);
displaying on the GUI a plurality of control icons representing various control functions wherein the control functions enable a user to control a system through the GUI, the GUI displaying a plurality of user-selectable functionalities distributed over multiple display interfaces in a control hierarchy of a system; and
adapting at least one of the plurality of control icons so as to be detectable by a user via means selected from the group of vibrotactile means, electrotactile means, and combinations thereof, wherein the at least one of the vibrotactile means, electrotactile means, and combinations thereof is provided to the GUI when the user is transitioning between the multiple display interfaces of the control hierarchy.
13. (Original) The method as in claim 12, wherein said vibrotactile means include at least one vibration in a range of about 10 Hz to about 1 kHz.

14. (Original) The method as in claim 12, wherein at least two of the plurality of control icons have a different vibrotactile characteristic.
15. (Original) The method as in claim 12, wherein at least one vibrotactile characteristic is present on at least one control icon of said plurality of control icons and not present on a surrounding area of display.
16. (Original) The method as in claim 12, wherein at least one vibrotactile characteristic is present on an area of display surrounding said plurality of control icons and not present on said plurality of control icons.
17. (Original) The method as in claim 15, wherein at least one vibrotactile characteristic is present on all of said control icons of said plurality of control icons and not present on a surrounding area of display.
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 12 ~~[[18]]~~, wherein said system is a consumer electronics system.
20. (Cancelled)